

Hutchinson booked at Clapton

Clapton 0, Wycombe W. 2

WYCOMBE left winger, Johnny Hutchinson, was booked, and two Clapton players were injured, in the second half as Wanderers found once again that life at the top can be tough, at the Spotted Dog ground on Saturday.

The home team made determined efforts to check the Bucks club's free scoring habits. It was a hard match played on a hard pitch, with rugged tackling ensuring that referee Mr. D. Reeves was constantly in action.

In the end, however, these tactics proved costly to both sides, Clapton finishing the game with only ten men, and

'TOO AGGRESSIVE' SAYS REFEREE REEVES

Wanderers smarting somewhat under Hutchinson's booking for what Mr. Reeves said later was "adopting an aggressive attitude."

But for all that the afternoon was full of good football that kept the crowd on their toes.

And the star of what finally turned out to be a 100 minute-long game was undoubtedly Clapton goalkeeper, Terry Moore.

For 45 minutes, goal-hungry Wanderers threw everything they had at him only to have it kept out by Moore's incredible agility.

By this time, Wycombe were beginning to think there was no

way of getting the ball past Moore. But in the second minute of injury time they found the target.

"Tons," as local supporters have nicknamed the Clapton team, were unusually thin at the back as Hutchinson raced down the right wing and crossed for Searle to prod the ball home at his second attempt after brave Moore had blocked the first.

No one doubted that the well organised Wanderers attack was worthy of a goal even with Geoff Anthony staying out as substitute because of his Welsh International call next week. Wycombe moved Keith Blunt into the forward line instead in order to knit him in for the

Amateur Cup clash against Tooting next Saturday.

The re-jig seemed to work satisfactorily and by comparison the Clapton attack was a disorganised affair. Their best chance of the first period came on the half hour as right winger, Johnny Bull burst through on a faulty clearance, but courageous goalkeeping by Johnny Maskell foiled the effort.

The pattern remained the same in the second half as Wanderers swung play back and forth across the park, pressuring a wearying "Tons" defence.

And the hopes of a home goal dimmed in the 60th minute

when Bull, their most effective forward, quit with a bruised collarbone after being chopped down while going through on the left wing.

Substitute, Jim Beaney had a chance to equalise with almost his first kick, but he failed to connect as the ball found him free in the six-yard box.

Clapton's Moore maintained his five-star performance with two fine saves from Horseman but he would have had little chance had Tony connected his head with the ball while diving through like Superman to try and meet a Hutchinson cross.

Ten minutes from time Clapton were reduced to ten men when Paul Tyler went off with a

leg injury, and in the 90th minute they sealed their fate when Pope unnecessarily retaliated to a nudge by Searle in the Clapton penalty box. Pope flattened the Wanderers' centre forward in front of the referee's eyes and centre-half John Delaney made no mistake from the spot.

One of the amazing things in an incident packed match was why Pope's name never went into the referee's book; another was why Mr. Reeves seemingly played ten minutes of injury time.

Clapton: Moore; Downer, Lawrence; Mahon, Watson, Tyler; Bull (sub.: Beaney), Pope, Sprague, Bennett, Kempton.

Wycombe Wanderers: Maskell; Rundlo, Gale; Faulkner, Delaney, Lailey; Blunt, Baker, Searle, Horseman, Hutchinson. Sub.: Anthony (not used).

Attendance: 450.